

REMEMBERING AN EVENT FROM 1937

Lila Faye Palmer bought
a bathing suit in Merced
couldn't swim a stroke
but jumped in an irrigation ditch
showing off her figure
if it hadn't been for Johnny Freitas
she'd have drowned for certain

that Portugese boy jumped in dressed
and saved her life
and carried her home to her mother
and married her two years later

JOE COOLEY IN HARDHAT THE WEEK AFTER HIS DIVORCE

Temperature has dropped
off to 89°
that is balmy for Bakersfield
in late July
 if a man is working
 out on construction
 of a highrise hotel in
 the heart of downtown
Number 15 sunscreen on
 his torso
 head covered with a
 hardhat
 hurt in his eyes hidden
 behind the dark glasses
and a smile that doesn't belong
 to him